

Our Fears Do Not Disqualify Us From Receiving!

Faith is not the absent of Fear nor does Fear Nullify Our Faith!

By B. D. Tate

If Jesus truly is our intercessor, there is nothing His intercession doesn't cover. God's amazing grace is full and complete. The scripture from Hebrews says this:

25 "Therefore He is also able to save to the *uttermost* those who come to God through Him, since He *always lives to make intercession* for them." (emphasis added)

The word "uttermost" is the factor in determining how deep the Lord's life penetrates, covers, and empowers our lives. Uttermost leaves no room, no space, and no area in which we must stand on our own. Our salvation is perfect and complete. There is no part of our being that His grace hasn't redeemed, restored, or provided for. We are saved; there are no ifs, ands, or buts, about it. This salvation is without limit or reservation—God is not holding back nor held back. We have become a new creation and the old one is to be considered dead (II Cor. 5:17 & Col. 3:3).

Furthermore, when it comes to our understanding of God's grace in our lives, it is not based on our goodness, works, achievements *or failures*. It is based on who Jesus is *and what we believe He is to us*. The scriptures conclude: He is our life, peace, joy, strength, faith, and purpose (Col. 3:4; Eph. 2:14; Phip. 4:13; John 15:11). We have been

made one in the Lord; we are joined in One Spirit with the Lord (I Cor. 6:17). If we have Jesus what don't we have from God?

In regards to the law, we are no longer under its tutelage, its governance, its judgment, or its power (Gal. 3:24, 25; Rom. 6:15). We live to newness of life, we live to resurrected life, and we live to Jesus, not rules and regulations (Rom. 6:4). Our faith in His grace is activated by acknowledging, asserting, and standing in His atonement provisions (Philemon 1:6).

What Jesus Taught

We must keep in mind what Jesus taught was a mixture of law and grace. Much of His message and instruction dealt with expanding upon the law, and it concerned the unregenerate situation of human beings before His glorification. Most of what He taught applied to the Old Testament standing under the law:

Mt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mt 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Mt 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Lu 10:27 So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

These statements, if fully understood, simply overwhelm us. We cannot meet these requirements set before us by Jesus. It is impossible for anyone of us to be saved if the measure is based on what we do. I cannot take up my cross, I can't deny myself, I do not love God more than myself or my loves ones, nor do I love God with all of my heart. I certainly do not love my neighbor as myself. I might be able to rationalize and reason that I can do something of these requirements maybe for a short period of time, but in truth, I utterly fail. We all do, that is why Jesus saves us to the *uttermost*.

We are not under law, but under grace!

This is the greatest good news there is! This means that our salvation is based upon what Jesus did for us, and who Jesus is to us. God doesn't deal with us according the law for Jesus fulfilled its requirements against us:

Col. 2: 13 "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,
14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us, And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

God now deals with us according to Jesus' life in us. He sees us in His grace, when we see Jesus in our lives.

Ga 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; *it is no longer I who live*, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh *I live by faith in the Son of God*, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Our lives of faith are lived in Him, through Him, and by His glory and presence. We have been born of God and have the divine nature

dwelling in our new creation spirit (II Pet. 1:4). This positions us in a different place than those before salvation in the new birth. We've been given faith, His faith, as a gift of the Holy Spirit. We've been given all things that pertain to godliness (II Pet. 1:4). We've been poured out upon by the Holy Spirit, and we have the love of God poured out in our hearts (Rom. 5:5). This is a new covenant based on the complete intercession of Jesus. We don't get what we deserve; we get what we believe Jesus is to us—that's grace. Amen.

Under grace, we get Jesus; under law, we were on our own. Even our faith was our own. When Jesus spoke on several occasions, He said this:

Mt 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

Under the old covenant, even our faith was put upon us. We received according to our faith or missed out because of a lack of it. Jesus rebuked the disciples for having little or no faith:

Mt 8:26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

If we understand, that for us to receive anything from the Lord, that it is based on our faith, we're in trouble. Jesus healed multitudes which had little or no faith *because it was His* faith that was at work. He healed, He cast out demons, He delivered the oppressed, and He did the works of the Father, all by His faith in God's grace.

He said to the disciples:

Lu 17:6 So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

We don't even have a mustard seed of faith on our own. This was spoken to reveal to them and to us, how devoid we really are of faith. Whose mustard seed of faith do we really need? We need the Lord's! When Jesus said:

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for *without Me you can do nothing.*" (Emphasis added)

This should convince us that in our natural man condition, without Jesus, we are without any faith. We can do nothing. We don't even have a mustard seed size of faith within us. When we received the Lord, our faith and even our believing were gifts given to us to help us!

Eph. 2: 8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
10 For we are His workmanship..."

This Has All Changed

We are no longer without Jesus. We are no longer under the law's judgments. We are no longer under the curse (Gal. 3:13). We are sons and daughters of the Most High and stand in the gift of righteousness forever (Rom. 5:17). We stand in a new position of grace—based solely in who Jesus is to us. I've now said this three times: *who Jesus is to us*. Our faith is His faith, our life is His life. We are one together in Him.

This means that the old conditions based on our behavior, our good or bad being brought back to us under the law, is obsolete. We are now in a new kingdom of His love and grace (Col. 1:13). What we believe Jesus is to us is what we get. Under this new situation, all of our sins, past, present, and future have been paid for. We were forgiven two thousand years ago in the cross of Christ (Heb. 10:14).

Under the law, our sins could separate us from God (Isa. 59:2); however, under grace they do not. Our sins are atoned for and therefore, we remain in complete fellowship with the *Father in our new creation spirit*. This is amazing and great good news because we all know that we sin. Yet, it is not our new creation spirit that sins (1 John 3:9)! All of our sins have been dealt with and we now stand in the gift of no condemnation (Rom. 8:1).

We are not judged by God for the sin we commit in this life. Why? It is because, in Jesus, we have been forgiven of our sin nature when we received Him as Lord. God decided even before all of us were born to establish forgiveness in the blood of the Lamb.

Why did we want to obey God under the old covenant? It was because we feared the curse of the law, God's wrath and punishment. We tried our best to obey so that we wouldn't get what we deserved; but how has that work for us? Aren't we all condemned by the law and guilty before our God?

Under the law, we all fall short of God's glory, period. But now, under grace, we don't obey God out of fear from the curse, judgment, or reaping what we deserve, we obey out of love in His grace. We are moved by His compassion, His loving grace, and His purifying goodness towards us. It is our discovering of how good God is that leads to true repentance (Rom. 2:4)!

Some, when they hear that God's grace covers all of our sins, respond by thinking or saying, "Well then, I can do whatever I want." That is not coming from our born again spirit, that is coming from the natural man (selfishness). Our born again spirit responds to God's love with love. We respond to God's grace with loving obedience and gratitude that we are now free to walk in Him and with Him.

We repent from our sin natured ways because of the love of God in our hearts. We want to please the Lord; we want to do what is

clean, good, and wholesome because these things bring love and blessings to us and others. We are grieved when we grieve the Holy Spirit. We are disappointed when we mess up knowing that God has already provided for our way in Him. When we sin, we are sorrowful, we want to turn away, and by faith we thank the Lord for forgiveness of our sins—because in truth, we are already forgiven.

What about Fear?

I have shared so far these truths to get to this next one. The scripture says:

Pr 10:24 “The fear of *the wicked* will come upon him, and the desire of the righteous will be granted.”

What the wicked fear will come upon them. Well, we are all wicked until we come to Christ; then, through the gift of righteousness, our desires will be granted. This means that the natural man receives what he/she fears, but the born again stand as righteous and therefore, get the desire of their hearts granted to them (according to His Will and Word).

If our sins do not separate us from God under grace, this means that our sins do not disqualify us from receiving in Jesus. If we walk after the Spirit, we won't fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). We will stand in the gift of no condemnation as we believe the right things.

If our sins do not disqualify us from God's grace, then our fears, which are based in wrong believing and sin, do not disqualify us either. Fear, at the core, is solely based in our sin nature. It is imagining and believing the things we don't want to happen will come upon us. The scripture testifies this way:

Ro 14:23 “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does not eat* from faith; for whatever *is* not from faith is sin.”

Fear is certainly not of faith; sometimes we consider it the opposite. It is actually perverted believing, in that our ability to believe, believes the wrong things. We are trusting the wrong sources, we are valuing someone else's opinion or words over God's word—this is spiritual adultery. We are bound in naturalism and tied up in unbelief due to our experiences in this world. Our fears mean that we have weeds of ungodliness growing in our hearts.

Fears come from sin nature and the natural man's sinfulness. This is all bad of course, but Jesus paid for all of our sins; therefore, our fears do not disqualify us from God's grace.

Misguided Teaching

Many of us have taught that fear negates faith. If we are in fear, we can't be in faith. Or we've described the situation like this: there are two horses in our lives pulling in the opposite direction, one is fear, and the other is faith. The conclusion of the matter is that the one we feed the most, pay attention to the most, or give more energy to, will win the day.

Some of us have taught that we can't be in fear and faith at the same time. When we are in fear we lose our peace, we become anxious, and tormented. We also know that God has commanded us not to be afraid. Therefore, if we are afraid we know we are disobeying the Lord. Fear then, does not put us in a position of strength in faith, but rather saps it away.

We can also argue that if we are in God, in faith, walking in His grace that His perfect love will cast out all of our fears:

1Jo 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but *perfect love* casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." (Emphasis added)

We can rightfully reason that if we are in fear then we are not made perfect in love. This understanding contributes to the belief that our fears would prevent God's grace from working in our lives.

As born again believers, there are two natures at war within us: the flesh lusting and fighting against the Spirit and vice versa (Gal. 5:17). It is our mind and heart that the battle for supremacy rages. In our spirit, we are made complete and stand in perfect love (Col. 2:10). There is no fear, sin, doubt, unbelief, or any other manifestation of sin nature coming from our new created spirit. When we experience sin, fear, doubt, unbelief, or any other sinful actions, attitudes, or expressions, it all comes from our old nature.

It is like we have two channels, the old and the new operating in our lives every day. It is the one we focus on, meditate in, and keep our attention on the most that dominates our lives. We are called to be filled with the Spirit, to walk in God's love and grace, so that we don't fulfill the lusts of the flesh; however, if we don't obey in faith this exhortation, we *will* fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Although we all are aware of this constant conflict within us, our sin nature has never disqualified us from walking in God. We can be sinning in one moment, turn the channel so to speak, and be worshipping God in the next. How is this possible? *God is not dwelling with us in our sin nature!* He told us to consider it dead. He exhorts us to live to the new life and forsake the old one; however, as we all know, we will have our sin nature until we pass from this life! This battle between the flesh and sin nature versus the Spirit of God within us, rages every day.

The more we live to the Spirit, the more peace, faith, love, and joy we will access in this life. When we sin, fall, or fail to be filled with the Spirit, God doesn't leave us nor forsake us—ever! Our fellowship

with God is not cut off, stopped, or threatened by our sins. Jesus, as our intercessor continues forever to intercede!

We can't pay for our sins, practice penance as if that will somehow get us back into God's good graces, because Jesus already paid for them and we are forgiven—forever. In this daily battle to live to the Spirit, God has helped us! He has sent into our hearts His love, peace, joy, and Spirit to carry and keep us. We do not lose our relationship to the Lord, *nor do we lose our fellowship* with Him, because in our new creation spirit we are joined as one.

When born again believers live to and practice sin, it doesn't change God's attitude towards us, it causes us to change towards Him. We become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13). We lose confidence in our mind and heart because of our personal guilt (1 Joh. 3:21). We lose touch, confidence, awareness, and/or boldness in our spirit because we're on the wrong channel. God is not judging us, we are judging ourselves. The law of God may be reactivated in our lives, but we can repent. We may have re-engaged our walk back under the curse, but we can assert and stand under the blood and get back into grace.

We have this divine treasure in earthen vessels that never leaves us, and will not reject us, because of sin. This is because the blood of Christ covers all sin, now and forever. This means that our future sins to us are also covered. When Christ died, all of our sins were future to Him. We have this unbreakable unity with God that we will never be disqualified from His grace again—as far as God is concerned.

The problem is that we separate ourselves from His grace because of our guilt, shame, and self condemnation. Yet, in the Spirit, in our new creation, there is no guilt, shame or condemnation. It all exists in our natural man, because of our own sin consciousness. We don't have to remain in this state any longer than our hearts and minds will

let us! We can renew our mind to think and believe the right things that in Christ, we are forgiven already. If we are forgiven already, then God's grace never stopped flowing towards us!

As strange as this may sound to our natural mind, we can be sinning and in fellowship with God at the same time, like switching the remote back and forth from one channel to the next. God is not entering into our sin activity, but neither is our born again spirit!

We have two persons operating in our lives, the old man and the new—they co-exist. Therefore, we can be in fear and in faith at the same time, albeit on separate channels of our existence. If we are fearful, sinning, depressed, insecure, in guilt and shame, feeling condemnation, we can guess what channel we're on—the flesh! If we're at peace, sensing faith and love, and have confidence in God's grace, we can know that we've changed the channel and now we're on the Spirit one!

We negate faith by fear because *we think* God has pulled back, stopped His grace because of our unbelief, doubts, and wrong believing. We cancel our faith because we think our lack of faith means we really do not believe God. What we are doing is interpreting our current status of spiritual life while on the flesh channel! On the flesh channel, there is no perception, no believing, and no faith in God's word! Remember this verse?

I Cor. 2: 14 "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

When we became born again, we didn't lose the natural man. As Christians, we can spend most of our life still natural, bound in the senses, and dominated by the world. We do not communicate with God through our natural man, nor does God dwell with us on this channel. When we think that the things of God are far-fetched, outlandish, hard

to believe, even foolish, we're on the natural channel! We can't interpret our faith in God's grace, nor expect peace, love, and God's joy to permeate our natural man. We must turn the channel and live in the Spirit!

Think of this for a moment, when we are watching one channel on TV does that mean that the other channels are turned off? Does my watching one channel stop the power of the others? No. Likewise, when we are living to the flesh, the power of the Spirit is not affected in any way! Our spirit is not decreased, diminished, or discounted. They simply co-exist and one does not negate the other or cancel out.

There is truth in the realization that the one I remain on the most will dominate my life. The one I live to the most will be reflected in my thoughts, my actions, and my words. I will become more confident, more aware and bolder in spiritual things if I will access the spiritual channel more and more.

This is an amazing truth: I could spend up to nine-nine percent of my time worrying, anxious, and fearful about a matter, only to turn to God in the last moment and receive my miracle! It only takes a mustard seed of faith, a little of God's Spirit, a spark, a glimpse, and tiny presence of God's peace, joy, and love, to turn the tide in favor of God's grace!

Does fear cancel out faith? No, a thousand times no. Does faith eliminate fear? No. We will always have the old man. When we walk in the Spirit, the old nature doesn't cease to exist.

Here are some amazing truths revealed in scripture that confirm what I'm saying!

First, when Jesus rebuked the disciples for the little or lack of faith, He still saved them from the winds and the waves! The fear of the disciples *did not disqualify* Jesus' intervention.

When Jesus came walking on the water, they feared He was a ghost. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, it is I." Peter responded by saying, "If it is you Lord, bid me come upon the water." Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter gets out of the boat and starts walking on the water. When Peter becomes afraid again due to the waves and the wind, he begins to sink. He cries out in fear for Jesus to save him.

What does Jesus do? Does Jesus say, "Well Peter, your fears and lack of faith are the problem; I can't save you because you have no faith." Does Jesus let Peter sink? No, Jesus grabs his hand and saves Peter. The winds and waves ceased and suddenly they are all at the other side of the lake. So, their fears did not disqualify Jesus from saving them then, and He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8)!

Remember the father with his epileptic son? The disciples couldn't cure the boy and Jesus responded:

Mr 9:19 He answered him and said, "O *faithless* generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." (Emphasis added)

Jesus didn't say to the father or the disciples, "Because of your fear and unbelief this boy can't be cured." He didn't say, "God sometimes wants us to be sick in order to teach us things." What did Jesus do? He lamented the disciple's faithlessness (They were not born again)! And when the father asked Jesus, "But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child *cried out* and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Listen to the fear of this father, even with tears! He did believe, but He also feared in unbelief! What did Jesus do? He healed the boy; the father's fear did not disqualify him.

God is not put off by our fear because it is the result of our sin nature. Fear is the direct result of being separated from God in the Garden of Eden; however, as born again believers, our sins have been taken care of; His perfect love casts out all fears! Faith and fears do co-exist!

Consider the Apostle Paul

From his letter of I Corinthians, the apostle Paul makes some astounding statements:

1 Cor. 2:1 "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

Paul wrote that he was among them "in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling;" however, in the next verse (vs. 4), he said his speech was "in demonstration of the Spirit of power..." Therefore, Paul was experiencing fear and faith at the same time. What was the result? His faith was not cancelled by his fear! In fact, we can say with certainty

that faith is the not the absence of fears, but the courage to act in faith despite them.

If we believe that our fears negate or cancel out our faith that is what we'll get. When we believe this way, we are operating under the law basing our results according to our faith. Fear grips all of us in some way, especially in areas of need such as financial pressure or health in healing. If we believe that our fear is causing us to lose God's grace, then we believe that God's grace is based *on our performance*. This is wrong "believing;" for God's grace is not dependent upon our performance, but comes to us by the completed performance of Christ. In other words, our fears do not disqualify us from God's grace any more than our works, or efforts, deserve God's grace.

This is the apostle Paul I'm writing about. The one that wrote two-thirds of the New Testament, the one that reveals the gospel of grace like no other. Yet, he experiences fears, trembling, in the midst of his faith!

I can hear the Father saying to us:

"I've got your back, don't be afraid, I've helped you, I've healed you, and you are mine. Whatever you need, I've supplied in Jesus. Whatever you call for in His name, it is done. You don't need to be afraid, just believe, but if you do fear, nothing is changed, I'm with you, and I've saved you. You can relax, rest, and even rejoice because I'm here to deliver you, save you, and provide all that you need—just see me."

Why should we see the Lord? It is because if we don't, we won't be healed? No, it is because when we see the Lord, we don't fear so much!

Have you ever been in a situation when you were fearful but someone you trusted said to you, "Don't be afraid, I've got this!"?

Nevertheless, you remained afraid all the while the trusted someone took care of it! Even though we might remain afraid, our faith in God, even to the smallest possible seed of His peace and presence, takes care of it! We might even be embarrassed that we were so afraid afterward, especially if it was someone we trusted.

The Diving Board Fear!

I can remember my son Greg being so afraid of jumping off the diving board into the pool. I told him it would be alright, go ahead. But his fear, especially of the unknown, was winning within him. So I walked up to him shaking as he was, and picked him up. He looked at me like I was going to do something he didn't want, but at the same time, he trusted me. I carried him over to the diving board, he got even more anxious. I said to him, trust me, I'm right here, I'm going to help you overcome this fear.

I proceeded to carry him across the diving board, he just cringed. Then I dropped him in the deep end off the board. He went down, popped up, looked a bit shook, but then realized he was still alive. He swam to the side of the pool, got out, ran back to the board and jumped off by himself, again and again, laughing and enjoying himself.

When Greg was afraid, I didn't stop helping him. I didn't say to him, "Because you are afraid I will not help you." I simply helped him despite his fear. Let's let God be our Father too! God is not put off by our fear, He sees our faith! Amen.

Conclusion

Our fears represent our sin nature and God atoned for it on the cross. God's grace is not based upon our performance, but our belief in the believing one—who is Jesus in us. We are not disqualified from God's

grace because of our sins, and in particular, our fears. Our fears do not negate or cancel out our faith. Fear is from the flesh; faith is from our new creation spirit. They co-exist; nevertheless, we could spend most of our time in fear and still receive God's best.

We only need a little of God's peace, presence, and power to activate grace through Jesus on our behalf. Our fears may dominate us, but so our faith also is at work because we spoke in Jesus' name! Our God never leaves us, nor forsakes us; this includes our propensity to be fearful.

When Jesus ministered to the multitudes and in every individual case, fear was present, but Jesus healed, delivered, cast out, and freed the oppressed regardless of it. Our savior has overcome all of our predicaments in the atonement. Our sins are covered, and as Jesus healed and delivered despite the fears of those around Him, even more so with us, since Jesus is in us. As Jesus was then, so He is now—the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

Our fear does not mean we have no faith. It means we are dwelling on the wrong channel. Our fears do not disqualify us from receiving grace for our needs and answers. God is greater than our hearts, our minds, and our fears...Jesus is greater than our every need. Our faith doesn't mean we have no fear! We still have the old nature, it didn't disappear. We're just not listening to it so much when faith reigns—because we are looking at and to Jesus! That is why God says to us to be filled with the Spirit, so that we don't have to be in fear and torment.

God's Grace Is Greater Than Our Fear...

P.S. God is saying, "Believe Me, I'm your God, I've saved you, I've helped you, anything you call for in Jesus' name is yours (Yes and amen; II Cor.

1:20)...be in faith, but even if you are in fear, I will never forsake you. I will help you anyway.”

Recommended Booklets:

Disqualified?

Little Is Enough (Mustard Seed Faith)